

***Agoseris elata* (Nutt.) Greene**

tall agoseris

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

**Status:** State Sensitive

**Rank:** G4S3

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1955): Perennial, glabrous or short villous especially on the involucre, stout, 8 to 28 inches tall. Leaves mostly 4 to 12 inches long and ½ to 3 inches wide, entire or more or less pinnatifid. Flowers yellow, sometimes turning pinkish in drying. Fruiting involucre ¾ to 1¼ inch high, its bracts well imbricate, the outer broader and blunter than the inner. The body of the achene about 1/3 to ½ inch long, tapering to the slender, scarcely striate beak of about equal length.

**Identification Tips:** *Agoseris elata* can be confused with other species and genera. *Agoseris glauca* has an achene (dry fruit) with a slender tip that is scarcely or not at all marked with parallel lines. *A. aurantiaca* has orange to brick-red flowers, but otherwise can appear quite similar to *A. elata*. *A. elata* can also be confused with the *Crepis* and *Microseris* genera. *Crepis* species have cauline (stem) leaves and generally more than one flower head. *Microseris* species have beakless achenes.

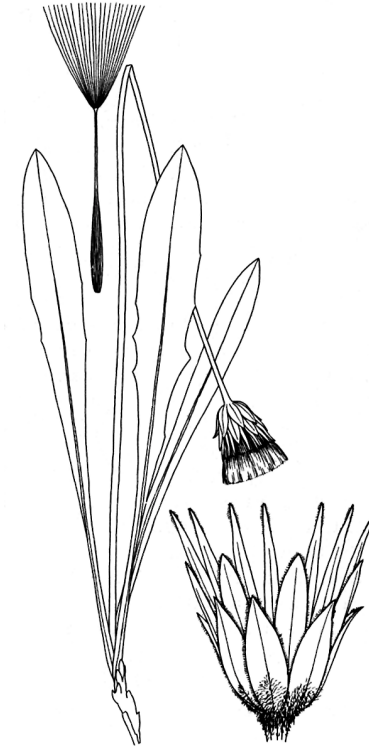
**Phenology:** Flowers June through August.

**Range:** *Agoseris elata* is historically known from the length of the Cascades from Washington to California. In Washington, the species is historically known from the Cascade Mountains, the Olympic Peninsula, and Whidbey Island. Currently the species is known from Chelan, Cowlitz, Kittitas, Okanogan, Snohomish, and Yakima counties.

**Habitat:** Meadows, open woods, and exposed rocky ridge tops on various slope aspects, from low elevations to timberline. Elevations from (500) 2900 to 7800 feet. The associated species vary considerably, depending on elevation and whether or not the site is on the east side of the Cascades or not. The vegetation is generally dominated by herbaceous species. *Agoseris glauca* and *A. aurantiaca* also occur at some of the sites for *A. elata*.

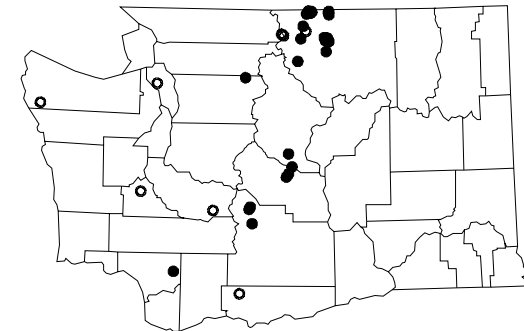
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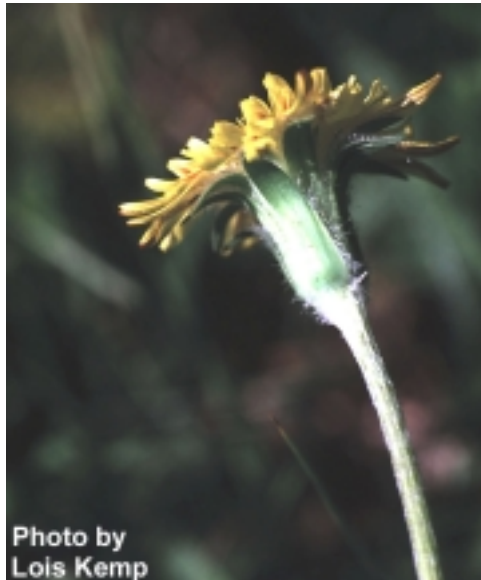
Known distribution of  
*Agoseris elata* in  
Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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**Ecology:** This species occurs in areas with little to no canopy cover, leading to the assumption that the species is shade-intolerant. Fires have probably played a role in maintaining some of the open, meadow habitats in which the species occurs.

**State Status Comments:** There are less than 50 occurrences in Washington and most populations are small.

**Inventory Needs:** A systematic inventory of appropriate habitat throughout the species' range is needed. Historic occurrences should also be revisited.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Threats include grazing, competition with non-native species, and recreational trampling. Historic lowland occurrences may have been lost to conversion of habitat.

**References:**

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1955. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 5: Compositae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 343 pp.